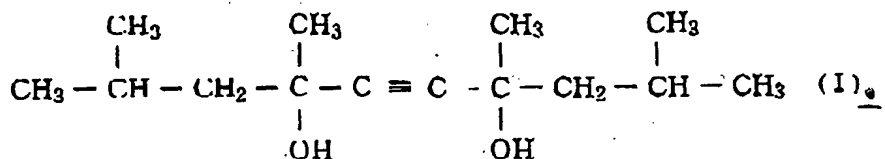


IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended) An ink composition containing at least: a coloring agent, 2-pyrrolidone, a surfactant, a butyl ether-based solvent which is triethylene glycol monobutyl ether, water, and a water-soluble organic solvent wherein said surfactant is a chemical compound represented by the following chemical formula (I):



Claim 2 (original) The ink composition according to claim 1 wherein the weight ratio of said surfactant, butyl ether-based solvent, and 2-pyrrolidone is 1:4:4 to 1:20:20.

Claim 3 (cancelled)

Claim 4 (currently amended) A method comprising providing the ink composition according to claim 2 employed in an inkjet recording method using and discharging the ink composition from an inkjet recording head comprising a nozzle plate wherein some of the an ink repellent coating layer that is coated onto the an external surface of said nozzle plate is introduced on to the an inner surface of said nozzle such that the volume of the a gap within the nozzle from the outer surface of the nozzle plate as far

as the a meniscus-forming face is in a range of 0.05 to 0.50 with respect to the a quantity of ink that is discharged.

Claim 5 (original) The ink composition according to claim 2 wherein the added amount of said coloring agent is 1 to 5 weight % with respect to the ink composition.

Claim 6 (original) The ink composition according to claim 2 further containing dispersant.

Claim 7 (original) The ink composition according to claim 6 wherein said dispersant is styrene-(meth) acrylic acid based water-soluble resin.

Claim 8 (original) The ink composition according to claim 2 in which said water-soluble organic solvent has a boiling point of at least 180°C.

Claim 9 (original) The ink composition according to claim 2 further containing as said water-soluble organic solvent a tertiary amine.

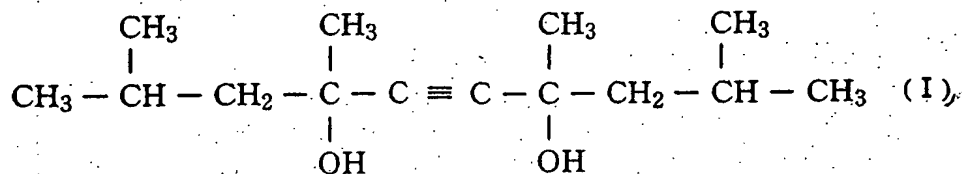
Claim 10 (original) The ink composition according to claim 2 further containing alkali hydroxide, alginic acid derivative, or a sugar or sugar derivative.

Claim 11 (currently amended) The ink composition according to clam 9 10 comprising said sugar derivative, wherein said sugar derivative is a reduced sugar,

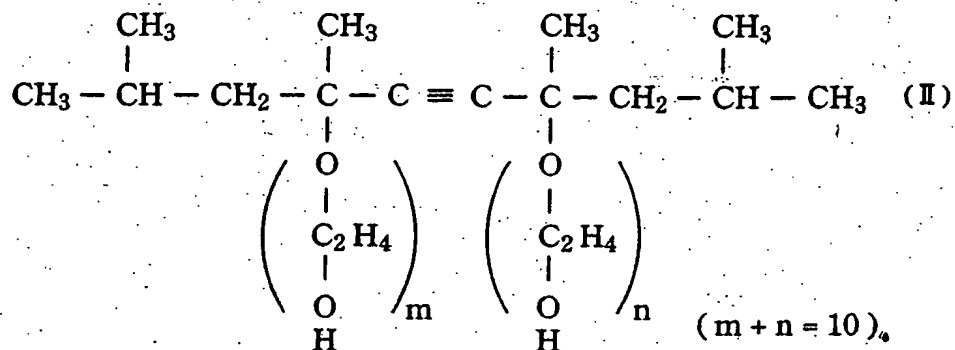
oxidized sugar, sugar dehydration derivative, amino sugar, or thio-sugar.

Claim 12 (currently amended) The ~~ink composition~~ method according to claim 4 wherein said ink repellent coating layer is formed by co-deposition plating.

Claim 13 (currently amended) The An ink composition ~~according to claim 1~~ containing at least: a coloring agent, 2-pyrrolidone, a surfactant, a butyl ether-based solvent, water, and a water-soluble organic solvent wherein said surfactant is a chemical compound represented by the following chemical formula (I):



said ink composition further including a compound represented by the following chemical formula (II)[.]



Claim 14 (original) The ink composition according to claim 13 wherein the content of the chemical compound represented by said chemical formula (I) is at least 1 weight % of the total amount.

Claim 15 (original) The ink composition according to claim 13 wherein the content of the chemical compound represented by said chemical formula (I) is 1 to 3 weight %.

Claim 16 (original) The ink composition according to claim 13 wherein the content of the chemical compound represented by said chemical formula (II) is at least 1 weight %.

Claim 17 (original) The ink composition according to claim 13 wherein said butyl ether-based solvent is triethylene glycol monobutyl ether or diethylene glycol monobutyl ether.

Claim 18 (original) The ink composition according to claim 13 wherein said coloring agent is C.I. Pigment Yellow 128.

Claim 19 (original) The ink composition according to claim 13 wherein the content of said coloring agent is 15 weight % or less in the total amount of the ink composition, the content of said 2-pyrrolidone is at least 2 weight % in the total amount of the ink composition, and the content of said butyl ether-based solvent is at least 4 weight % in the total amount of the ink composition.

Claim 20 (original) The ink composition according to claim 13 further containing a polymeric dispersant having a carboxyl group in the molecule.

Claim 21 (original) The ink composition according to claim 13 further containing a moisture-retaining agent selected from the group consisting of glycerin, dicethylene glycol and ethylene glycol.

Claim 22 (original) A recording method wherein formation of a recording is performed by depositing the ink composition of claim 1 on a recording medium.

Claim 23 (original) The recording method according to claim 22 being an inkjet recording method wherein printing is performed by discharging drops of the ink composition using said recording method and depositing these drops on the recording medium.

Claim 24 (original) The recording method according to claim 23 employing an inkjet recording head comprising a nozzle plate that has been subjected to ink repellent treatment.

Claim 25 (original) A recording method wherein formation of a recording is performed by filling a tank accommodating in its interior a form comprising a porous member with the ink composition according to claim 1 and discharging it from this tank to a recording head.

Claim 26 (original) A recording wherein the ink composition according to claim 1 is deposited on a recording medium in a prescribed pattern.

Claim 27 (new) The ink composition according to claim 2, wherein the coloring agent is a pigment and is present in an amount of about 1 to 5 wt%, the 2-pyrrolidone being present in an amount of about 1-10 wt%, the triethylene glycol monobutyl ether being present in an amount of about 1-10 wt%, and the compound of formula (I) being present in an amount of about 0.05 to 5 wt%.